

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of a non-final Office Action dated October 6, 2005. In this response Applicants have amended claims 22-24 such that these claims now ultimately depend from claim 1. Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Following entry of these amendments, claims 1-11, 13-20, and 22-24 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Acknowledgement of Priority Documents and Formal Drawings

During a review of their file, Applicants have noted that the PTO has not yet acknowledged acceptance of the priority documents and formal drawings submitted on September 17, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the PTO acknowledge acceptance of the drawings in its next communication.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the PTO's indication that claims 1-11 and 13-20 have been allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 22-24, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,743,749 to Morikawa et al. (hereinafter "Morikawa").

In this response, Applicants have amended claims 22-24 such that these claims now ultimately depend from allowed claim 1. In addition, Applicants have cancelled claims 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejection under §103 is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,


Date 1/6/06

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.